

August 17, 2009

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## Guide Dogs SA.NT appoints new CEO

Former corporate executive Kate Thiele has started work as the newly appointed CEO of Guide Dogs SA.NT.

Bringing a wide range of skills and experience to the new position, Ms Thiele has worked in senior roles in the commercial and not-for-profit sector both on a national and state level.

Ms Thiele made a clear career move in 2005 to use her skills to “make a difference” to charitable causes.

Her appointment comes at an exciting and crucial time at Guide Dogs SA.NT, taking on the responsibility of steering Guide Dogs SA.NT through the final stages of a major redevelopment of its Adelaide headquarters.

Ms Thiele said the building redevelopment was part of a strategy to enable Guide Dogs SA.NT to continue the provision and expansion of services and programs well into the future, catering for the rapidly growing numbers of people developing vision and hearing loss in line with Australia’s ageing population.

The organisation is also taking on a greater responsibility for educating people about preventable vision and hearing loss, with the opening of a Guide Dogs Discovery Centre, South Australia’s first interactive vision and hearing health education facility.

“Studies show that nearly three quarters of vision impairment is unnecessary. It can be prevented or treated.”

Ms Thiele said she would welcome the challenges the new position would bring and paid tribute to the strong contribution and leadership of her predecessor Winnie Pelz, who has retired as CEO after four years.

“I look forward to working with the board and the staff of Guide Dogs SA.NT to deliver services which will assist people with sensory loss to live as independently as possible.”

## ENDS

### Further information

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